

Pitcairn Islands First Definitive Series Postal History: Usages & Rates 1940-1957

Synopsis

What is Presented:

This exhibit shows single and/or multiple usages of all ten values from the first set of definitives. Lower denominated values (4d. and below) are used on surface letters and postcards, while higher denominated values (6d. and above) are used on airmail letters and parcels.

Challenge Factor:

This exhibit represents the result of 5 years of personal research and corroborative work with leading Pitcairn experts.

Organization:

½d., 1d. and 1½d. usages:

- "Non-First Day Covers" to New Zealand
- Surface Postcard Rates to New Zealand
- Church Mail to Fiji
- Cunard Passenger Ship Mail

2d. and 3d. usages:

- QSL Card to USA
- Postmaster to USA Collector
- New Zealand Shipping Company Passenger Ship Mail
- Liberty Ship Sailor Mail
- Censored Registered Mail to USA

4d. usages:

- Increased Surface Mail Rate to USA
- Early Registered Surface Mail to New Zealand

6d. and 8d. usages:

- Airmail to Fiji and Holland
- Airmail to Australia and Norfolk Island

1/- usages:

- Special Parcel Rate to New Zealand

2/6 usage:

- Early Airmail to Australia

Material Highlights:

QSL Card to USA: The vast majority of Pitcairn QSLs are sent via QSL bureaus or under separate cover. Only occasionally can posted QSLs be found. 1 of 2 that I have seen.

Censored Mail to Washington, D.C.: All censored Pitcairn covers are scarce. This particular cover was censored in California in 1942.

Special Parcel Rate to New Zealand – A scarce parcel clipping showing sending and receiving addresses and hand typed customs declaration dating from 1943. Earliest and most complete parcel Pitcairn parcel clipping that I have seen.

Early Airmail to Australia – Very scarce usage of the 2/6 value on overweight airmail cover dating from 1947. Only non-philatelic example of 2/6 value that I have seen.